

**GA Balance of State CoC Standards, Rating & Project Selection Committee Meeting
December 15, 2104 / 11:00 AM---12:00 PM**

Go-To-Meeting Conference Call (<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/631742085>)

Agenda

Balance of State Point-in-Time Count Methodology

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions – Jonathan Cox, Planning Manager, Office of Homeless and Special Needs Housing

Attendance:

Members Present:

Rachel Castillo, MUST Ministries, Inc.; Nonprofit Homeless Service Provider; North, GA
Evan Mills, MSW, Advantage Behavioral Health Services; Mental Health Service Provider
Phillippa Moss, City of Gainesville; Local Government; Housing & Neighborhood Development

Members Absent:

none

Collaborative Applicant Staff:

Katie Arce, Department of Community Affairs
Jonathan Cox, Department of Community Affairs
Tina Moore, Department of Community Affairs
Amy Zaremba, Department of Community Affairs

Support Entity:

None

This meeting of the Interim Standards, Rating and Project Selection Committee began at 11:07 a.m.

Jonathan Cox welcomed everyone and introduced Rachel Castillo, the newest member. Mr. Cox also reported that prior to this meeting Elizabeth Runkle resigned from this committee. Mr. Cox provided a brief update on the status of the 2014 Continuum of Care Competition, the upcoming Balance of State (BoS) Continuum of Care (CoC) Board meeting, and the Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program competition. Mr. Cox then introduced Katie Arce, DCA's Data Coordinator to review the 2015 Homeless Count methodology presentation.

Collaborative Applicant staff reviewed the background, history, and results of the Point-in-Time (PIT) Counts in the BoS CoC, which was conducted in 2008, 2009, 2011, and 2013. Staff reviewed solicitation efforts to obtain count coordinators around the State and count methodology for the seven day service-based count beginning the night of January 26, 2015, with the Committee. Staff discussed training

Georgia Department of Community Affairs

Approved Governance Charter and other related information available at:

<http://www.dca.ga.gov/housing/HousingDevelopment/programs/continuumofcare.asp>

around methods of data collection for homeless count coordinators, which includes collaboration with consolidated planning jurisdictions, local homeless coalitions, and service providers.

The Collaborative Applicant staff then reviewed and discussed the survey instrument for the unsheltered count with the Committee. They discussed methods in place to de-duplicate the data, new efforts in place to better capture and clarify individuals who are chronically homeless, and other data to capture demographic and situational data. This year, the Columbus-Muscogee County CoC, the Fulton County CoC, and the City of Atlanta CoC have partnered with the BoS CoC to use the same survey instrument. These partnerships get us one step closer to having one statewide methodology, which would allow for better comparisons of PIT data across continua.

The Collaborative Applicant staff discussed work with the Burruss Institute at Kennesaw State University (KSU), who will format the Georgia Housing Status Survey for scanning and then process and de-duplicate the data. Staff then discussed data analysis of Dr. Jennifer Priestly (KSU). Dr. Priestley will take data from the census and combine it with the data that we've gathered using the Georgia Housing Status Survey. Dr. Priestley will look at certain indicator variables and create clusters of counties that exhibit like characteristics from demographic characteristics to socioeconomic characteristics. Each count year, the BoS works to insure that there is a physical count for at least one county in each cluster of counties. Using the clusters, Dr. Priestley will create a logistic regression model that uses variables to predict the number of homeless people in each county in Georgia. This method is used to compare and verify the data from counties where there was a physical count. The final data is then combined with the sheltered homeless count data that will also be conducted on that same day in January. These numbers will then be reported to HUD.

The Collaborative Applicant staff discussed preparations for the 2015 PIT Count, which include training sessions and meetings for the 22 homeless count coordinators who are responsible for organizing the count, and recruiting and training their volunteers, in 70 of Georgia's 152 BoS CoC counties.

The Collaborative Applicant staff then discussed methodology around the sheltered count in regards to the service provider survey and pulling data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). The sheltered survey will also provide data from agencies that serve victims of domestic violence, and enable staff to verify HMIS data. This information will also be reported to HUD.

Staff requested the Committee's approval of the methodology for the semi-annual PIT Count, as well as the annual shelter and transitional housing count methodology. The Committee unanimously approved the BoS CoC PIT Count methodology and action plan.

The meeting ended 11:39 AM.